

He reached out to his fellow man in so many ways during his lifetime. His biggest contribution and blessing was his endowment of the Myron Stratton Home. Some of his benevolent good deeds include buying the old courthouse in Colorado Springs and furnishing the county with the money to build a new courthouse on a city block that he provided. He also purchased a corner lot downtown for \$70,000 offering it to the federal government for half of its value in order to build a new post office. It was recently named the Winfield Scott Stratton Post Office by a new Congressional Act. In addition to these contributions, Stratton also built a convention hall and pavilion seating 35,000 people for the use of the city and gave five thousand dollars a year to keep it maintained. He donated supplies worth \$50,000 when the fire of 1896 in Cripple Creek Colorado left 5,000 people without shelter or goods. He also gave \$25,000 to the Colorado School of Mines to complete the "Hall of Metallurgy", recognized by Colorado's 13th General Assembly. He made gifts of \$70,000 to Colorado College and \$25,000 to the Colorado Deaf and Blind School. Stratton donated approximately \$85,000 to feed and house the homeless; made substantial contributions to churches, supported miners, laborers, laundry women and others in need.

Stratton's most lasting gift was a bequest in his handwritten will directing that his wealth be delivered to the trustees of a charitable institution for acting and maintaining a free home, "for poor persons without means of support, and who are physically unable by reason of old age, youth, sickness or other infirmity to earn a livelihood." This home is called the Myron Stratton Home in honor of his father.

After Stratton "stuck it rich" he continued to live frugally and simply by helping the poor, saying "I count my money as a gift from the father of us all, and I am responsible for its administration as a good steward." Stratton backed his philosophy with action and no other individual gave so generously to so many individuals and organizations. Stratton's benevolent gifts in today's world would be astronomical. Before he died in 1902, he gave away over \$3 million. In any time of prosperity there will be many children from broken homes who could be helped by homes like the Myron Stratton Home. Winfield Scott Stratton, was a man of vision and one of Colorado's greatest humanitarians. His good deeds continue to be a good example of our need to help one another.

ALLSTATE FOUNDATION

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the ongoing efforts of the Allstate Foundation, which works in partnership with national and local nonprofit organizations in the areas of community and economic development, automobile and highway safety, and personal safety and security. Through corporate investment, marketing initiatives, and employee volunteer projects, the Allstate Foundation delivers on its commitments to build and strengthen our communities. I am proud to have Allstate headquartered in my District.

Since 1991, Allstate Foundation has been working in conjunction with the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) and the Department of Justice to help spread the message to families across the nation that identifying and practicing effective crime prevention methods is essential to their safety and welfare. In the eight-year history of this partnership, the Allstate Foundation has consistently supported the efforts of the National Crime Prevention Council by identifying and funding innovative and prevention and awareness tools. The Foundation first demonstrated its outstanding level of commitment to community safety by providing significant funding for the further enrichment and distribution of a 1993 Council auto theft prevention publication.

In 1996, Allstate helped to create the NCPC's growing presence on the world wide web, giving more people more crime prevention know-how than ever before. Today, five sites are on-line because of Allstate's contributions. These sites offer answers to basic questions about what one individual—or ten—can do to help stop crime and build better, stronger communities. The web sites engage teens, parents, teachers, law enforcement officials, grandparents, and business owners in fighting crime—giving them concrete examples of what they can do, outlining proven strategies, and informing them about training opportunities and events.

Since May 1, 1997, the National Crime Prevention Council's On-Line Resource Center has welcomed more than 100,000 visitors. Visits have skyrocketed to more than 16,000 a month, and this number is growing every day, a testament to the site's quality and effectiveness in spreading the Council's crime prevention message.

The partnership among the NCPC, the Department of Justice, and the Allstate Foundation deserves much credit for their successful on-line project. There are already plans to expand the website's content and exposure as part of a multi-million dollar public service campaign on radio and TV, and in print and on billboards across the country. The Allstate Foundation's safety team has also worked with NCPC to adapt the video, *Are You Safe: A National Test on Crime Prevention* for use by its agents as a public service to help educate individuals on personal and home security.

With further input from law enforcement, criminal justice, and private sector communities, and with Allstate's continued involvement, the web project and other National Crime Prevention Council initiatives will continue to serve as great tools for all Americans in the fight to prevent crime. I commend the Allstate Foundation for their contributions to this noble cause.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is simple. It accomplishes a goal that America's veterans believe is important and that Congress should strongly support.

My amendment has been endorsed by the American Legion, AMVETS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Almost identical legislation that I introduced last year received strong bipartisan support.

As the ranking Democrat on the Veterans Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Health, I have become very familiar with the serious problem of sexual abuse and harassment in the military.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is responsible for treating the victims of these crimes and abuses. In my oversight role on the Health Subcommittee I have had the opportunity to speak with and learn from women veterans who suffered from this abuse.

The high rate of sexual abuse in the armed services requires continued action on this issue.

In 1996, approximately 190,000 women served in our armed services.

That year, the Pentagon conducted a survey of active duty women and found that five percent of women had been the victims of sexual assault during their period of military service.

National surveys conducted by the VA indicate that approximately 20 percent of women seeking services from VA medical facilities report having experienced a rape or other form of assault on active duty while 35 to 50 percent report suffering some form of sexual harassment.

Such findings—and high profile news reports of incidents of abuse—have made clear the existence of a very serious problem in our armed forces and the need to move more aggressively to end the tragedy of sexual violence and harassment.

Rick Schultz, the executive director of the Vietnam Veterans of America, which supports this initiative, said, "in our nation's fervor to prosecute the offenders, we must not forget to attend to the needs of the victims."

This amendment puts those words into law.

This amendment also is smart policy.

The prevalence of substance abuse, homelessness, family breakdown, poverty and the receipt of public assistance is higher among women veterans who suffered from abuse during their military service than it is among the general women veterans population.

The women veterans that I have spoke with told me that the VA's program had helped them turn their lives around. Helped them get off public assistance, to treat their addictions and become active in their families and communities once again.

Sadly, the VA's sexual trauma treatment program is scheduled to expire at the end of their year.

The possible termination of this program would be tragic for the thousands of women who have benefited from the services provided by the VA.

More than 18,000 women veterans and 200 male veterans have sought and received therapeutic counseling at hundreds of VA medical facilities throughout America.

I believe we have an obligation to maintain these services.

Our failure to ensure a safe environment for women in the armed services compels us to reauthorize this vital program.

Unfortunately, current law also does not enable all the victims of sexual abuse in the military to receive counseling at the VA.

Current law excludes active and former reservists and national guard members from seeking this vital care.

This is a serious oversight that needs correction.

Female reservists have been the victims of sexual abuse while on active duty in the Gulf and in Bosnia. They have come back with the scars of these crimes and have not been afforded care at VA facilities.

Reservists have also been the victims of these serious crimes during their active training.

Unfortunately, these crimes often go unreported because the Defense Department refuses to investigate offenses that affect non-active duty soldiers.

Because of this policy, no recourse exists for reservists and no care is provided.

This is wrong and my amendment will correct this loophole.

The Department of Veterans Affairs wants this program reauthorized until 2002 and Congress should comply with this request.

The veterans community wants this program reauthorized and wants all the victims of sexual abuse during their military service to be eligible for proper treatment.

As Josephus Vandengoobergh (VAN-DEN-GO-BERGH), the National Commander of AMVETS, states in a letter of support for my amendment, "AMVETS strongly supports Congressman Guterrez's amendment to HR 4194, to reauthorize and improve the VA's sexual trauma program. If nothing is done, this program will expire in December. We would like to see it established as a permanent program, we believe it has proved its worth."

Today, our nation has more than 1.2 million women veterans.

This amendment would respond to their needs and help them gain the recognition they deserve and care they have earned.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and honor our obligations to women veterans.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to enter for the RECORD the letter from Josephus Vandengoobergh, the National Commander of AMVETS, in support of my amendment.

AMVETS

Lanham, MD, July 14, 1998.

Hon. GERALD SOLOMON,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: AMVETS strongly supports Congressman Luis Guterrez's amendment to H.R. 4194 (the VA/HUD Appropriations Bill) to reauthorize and improve the "Veterans Sexual Trauma Treatment Act."

AMVETS, along with other veterans service organizations, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Government Accounting Office, testified earlier this year to the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Health that this program needs to be reauthorized. We would like to see it established as a permanent program; we believe it has proved its worth.

Enclosed is our testimony, as well as the testimony of the VA and GAO. Mr.

Guterrez's amendment would reauthorize the program and expand its scope to cover Reservists and National Guard who experienced sexual trauma during military duty. Currently VA includes these groups in the program; therefore, no additional costs will be incurred by their addition.

If nothing is done, the program will expire in December of this year. According to VA, more than 18,000 women veterans and 200 male veterans have accessed sexual trauma counseling services. Please help save this viable program.

Sincerely,

JOSEPHUS C. VANDENGOOBERGH,
National Commander.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANNE SPEAKE

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Anne Speake for being selected to receive the Central California Woman in Business Advocate of the Year Award by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Ms. Speake is viewed as a role model for all women owning businesses. Not only is she a tremendous asset as a mentor, but she is also a leader in our business community.

Anne Speake is the owner and operator of the International English Institute. Anne started this business over 15 years ago, and is successful not only here in the Valley but globally through the International English Institute. Most recently she was selected as the Fresno Chamber of Commerce President. As Chamber President, Anne will be influential in shaping and molding the Valley's policy toward small businesses.

The Women in Business Advocate Award is presented annually to individuals who fulfill a commitment to the advancement of women's business ownership. Selection criteria for the award is based on the following areas: 1) Efforts to increase business and financial opportunities for women; 2) Legal, financial or managerial assistance; 3) Voluntary efforts to strengthen the role of women business owners within the community; 4) Advocacy of the women-owned business community as a whole.

Anne Speake was nominated for this award by Glendale Federal Bank. Anne Speake is viewed as a consensus builder and a leader. She commands respect from others, because she leads by example. Ms. Speake is deeply committed to our community, through her active involvement in the Fresno Business Council and the Fresno Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Anne Speake of the International English Institute. Mrs. Speake exemplifies what it means to be an advocate for small business. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Anne Speake many more years of success.

NEEDED: GOOD HELICOPTERS, NOT ACADEMIC DEBATE IN COLOMBIA; EIGHT ANTI-DRUG POLICE DIE IN HUEY CRASH

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, this week in northern Colombia, eight Colombian National Police (CNP) officers from the elite DANTI anti-drug unit died following a crash of one of the U.S.-provided, Vietnam-era Huey helicopters. These anti-drug police officers died flying a worn out 35-year-plus chopper after a take down operation against a rightwing paramilitary cocaine lab in the Uraba region, near the border with Panama.

Congress has argued that these good police officers fighting our fight against drugs before they reach our streets and kill our kids, deserve the best helicopter equipment we can provide. The House International Relations Committee has long argued for better and crash-survivable helicopters. Regrettably the State Department has resisted these efforts.

This aged helicopter fleet puts at risk the few good men and women of DANTI (only 3,000). CNP leader General Serrano doesn't have an unlimited number of good police officers. He no longer will have the courageous and dedicated service of Major Vodmar Galeano, the Chief of Operations for DANTI, and Captain Martin Sierra, Chief Helicopter Instructor Pilot, among the others killed in the most recent crash.

Their loss diminishes our national interests, as well as that of Colombia, where these illicit drugs finance all sides in a raging narco-based war, threatening South America's oldest democracy.

AMERICA'S LOOKING FOR ITS MISSING CHILDREN PROGRAM

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a very important program. It's not a government program, but an example of our private sector partnering effectively with the public sector to tackle pressing social problems.

In 1985, ADVO, Inc., the nation's largest direct mail marketing company, partnered with The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The Adam Walsh Child Resource Center, the Juvenile Division of the Department of Justice, and the U.S. Postal Service to lend a hand in the recovery of missing and exploited children. One of the leaders of that partnership, ADVO Senior Vice President Vincent Giuliano, recently came to Capitol Hill to share with the Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus this amazing success story. I encourage my colleagues and every citizen to take an interest in this important program, which is doing so much to help the nation's missing and exploited children.

As a direct result of this innovative program, ADVO has helped the authorities recover 88 children and to reunite them with their families.